

20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2012

20  
1992-2012  
image  
217  
DIGITAL EDITION

# SPAWN



Golden  
McFarlane  
+fco



Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present



**PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN**

Following an act of violence that saw him gunned down on national television, fragments of Jim Downing's mysterious past are finally revealed. Each flash of memory is a puzzle piece hinting at the full scope of Jim's place within the complex mythology of the SPAWN universe, including his connection to Jason Wynn, Tremor, the Freak, Overtkill and the Program that made him Patient 47.

Managing Editor  
**Jen Cassidy**

Art Director  
**Ben Timmreck**

Production Artist  
**Joe Ferstl**

Publisher for Image Comics  
**Eric Stephenson**

SPAWN CREATED BY  
**TODD McFARLANE**

**JON GOFF**  
Plot

**TODD McFARLANE**  
WRITER/PLOT

**SZYMON KUDRANSKI**  
ART

**FCO PLASCENCIA**  
COLOR

**TOM ORZECHOWSKI**  
LETTERING

**JON GOFF**  
Additional Scripting

**MICHAEL GOLDEN**  
Cover Artist

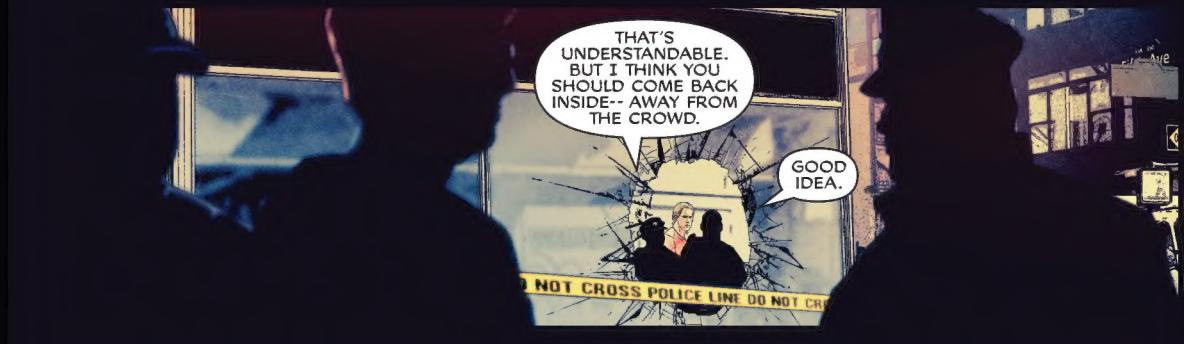
**Todd McFarlane**  
Editor

**image**

**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS  
**SPAWN.COM**

Spawn #217, Digital Edition, Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2134 Aliston Way, Second Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, \$2.99 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.





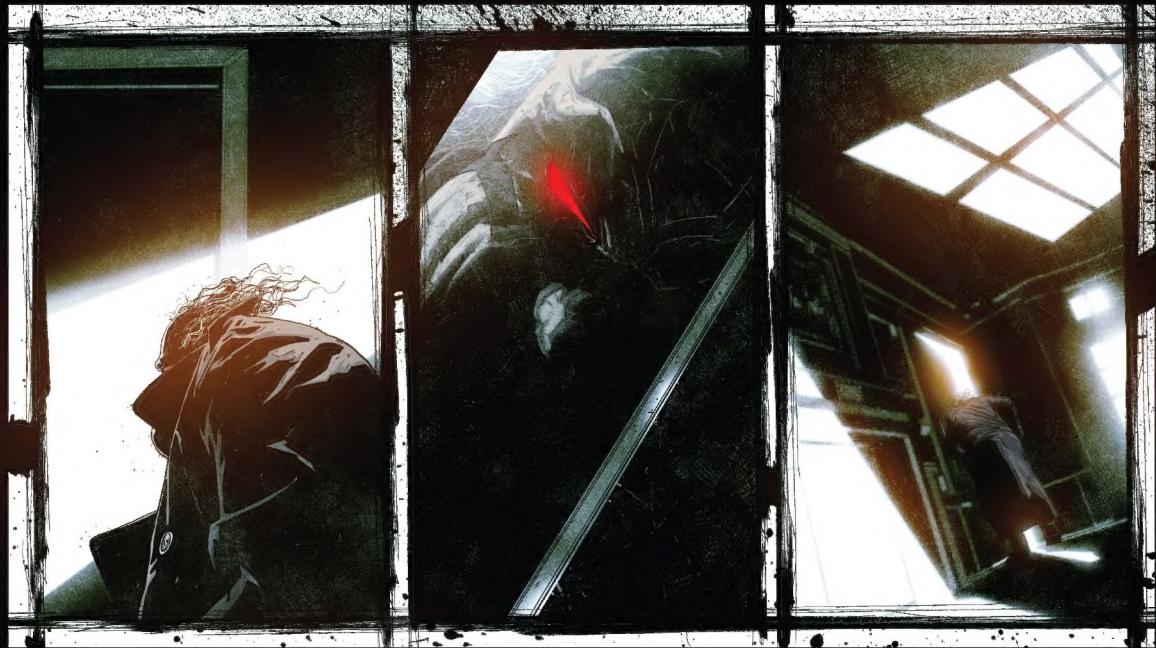


MOMENTS LATER.



GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT







# SLAMM

NICE  
ENTRANCE--  
VERY DRAMATIC  
OF YOU.

AND  
YOUR SENSE  
OF TIMING IS  
IMPECCABLE. I WAS  
JUST FINISHING UP  
MY TALK WITH YOUR  
DOG FRIEND HERE.  
HE WAS INTERESTED  
IN KNOWING MY  
THOUGHTS ON  
THE TOPIC OF  
LOYALTY.

BUT, AS YOU  
CAN SEE-- IT WAS A  
BIT OF A **ONE-SIDED**  
CONVERSATION.

EXCUSE  
ME! OUT OF  
MY WAY...  
PLEASE!

TWITCH!

WERE YOU  
WATCHING? DID  
YOU SEE?! THEY  
SAID HE GOT SHOT  
AND NOW HE'S  
WALKING AROUND  
LIKE...

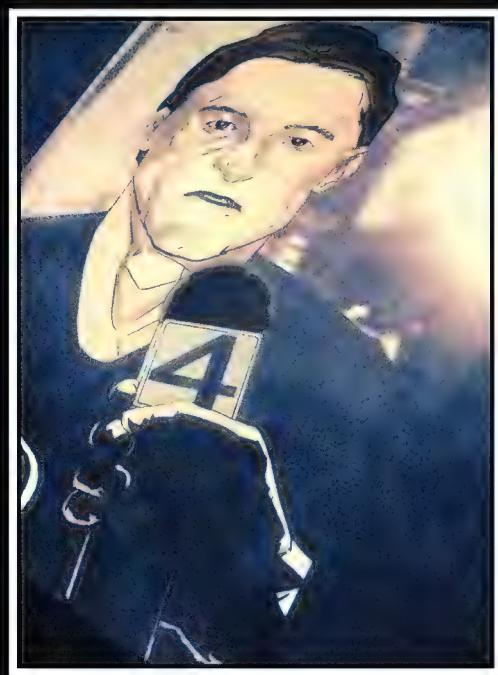
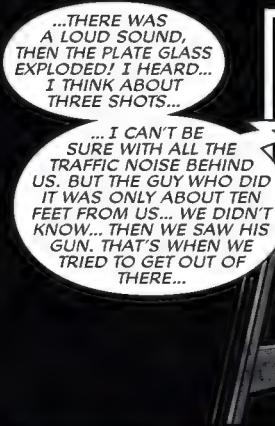
NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT · PRECINCT 23

QUIET!

I SAW IT--  
NOW LET ME  
HEAR WHAT  
THEY'RE  
SAYING!



NO.  
I KNOW DOWNING--  
HE'LL BE GONE BY THE  
TIME WE GET THERE. WE'D  
BE WASTING OUR TIME.  
BESIDES, TRYING TO FIGURE  
THIS MESS OUT IS GIVING  
ME A HEADACHE.



AN OHIO HIGHWAY.

WE CAN  
CONSOLIDATE YOUR  
DEBT AND WORK WITH  
YOUR CREDITORS TO HELP  
CREATE A MONTHLY PAYMENT  
THAT IS MANAGEABLE--  
SO WHAT ARE YOU  
WAITING FOR?

CALL NOW  
AND ONE OF OUR  
REPRESENTATIVES WILL  
WALK YOU THROUGH  
OUR EASY THREE-STEP  
PROGRAM TO A MORE  
SECURE AND STRESS-  
FREE LIFE.

WELCOME  
BACK, EVERYONE. WE  
CONTINUE TO BRING YOU UP  
TO THE MINUTE REPORTS ON THE  
ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION, IN  
NEW YORK CITY, OF JIM DOWNING.  
POLICE HAVE YET TO RELEASE THE  
NAME OF THE ASSAILANT OR  
ANY INFORMATION ON A  
POSSIBLE MOTIVE.

IN A FEW  
MOMENTS WE'LL  
BRING IN TWO GUESTS  
THAT ARE FORMER  
INVESTIGATORS WITH  
THE N.Y.P.D.

PA  
2  
Erie 20  
Buffalo 100



WE DON'T HAVE THE STAFF TO COVER FOR YOU, SO I'M SORRY YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR SHIFT.

I TOLD YOU I NEED TO LEAVE! AN EMERGENCY HAS COME UP!

I UNDERSTAND, BUT WE'RE SHORT TODAY, AND I CAN'T MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS BECAUSE...

THEN I **QUIT!**

I DON'T NEED A JOB LIKE THIS! ALL YOUR DUMB RULES!! AND THESE HATS YOU MAKE US WEAR?! WE'RE NOT LIVING IN THE FIFTIES ANYMORE-- WHEN ARE YOU GUYS GOING WAKE UP?!



THE TARGET IS LEAVING THE BUILDING.

TELL THE VATICAN THAT OUR OPERATION WITH MISS JOHNSTON IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.













BY ALL ACCOUNTS-- FROM EYEWITNESSES, TO THE DETAILS PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL STAFF WHO EXAMINED MR. DOWNING ON-SCENE AND THE ARRESTING OFFICERS WHO APPREHENDED THE ATTACKER-- THIS WAS NO HOAX. MR. DOWNING WAS INDEED SHOT WITH LIVE ROUNDS, AND HIS WOUNDS APPEARED TO BE VERY REAL BEFORE HIS 'MIRACULOUS' RECOVERY.

THIS EVENT-- THE ATTACK ON HIS LIFE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MR. DOWNING'S SUBSEQUENT RECOVERY-- HAS ONLY SERVED TO FURTHER IGNITE A FIRESTORM OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC INTEREST WHICH WAS ALREADY SURGING AS A RESULT OF HIS OTHER RECENT ACTIVITIES.



THE MYSTERIOUS **JIM DOWNING** HAS DONE IT AGAIN, FOLKS. FIRST HE COMES OUT OF NOWHERE WITH A STORY **SO INTRIGUING** WE COULDN'T LOOK AWAY-- A COMA PATIENT WAKES WITH NO **MEMORY** AND NO ONE WHO **REMEMBERS** HIM, THEN STRUTS AROUND TOWN WITH THE POWERS OF A **HEALING ANGEL** AND THE DISHEVELED GOOD LOOKS OF AN **UNDERWEAR MODEL**.

NOW, JUST AS HE PROMISED TO USE HIS GIFTS FOR THE **GOOD OF ALL MANKIND**, A HORRIFIC BURST OF VIOLENT **AGGRESSION** STRIKES HIM DOWN. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A TRAGEDY, THOUGH, INSTEAD BECAME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR NEW-FOUND HERO TO INSPIRE HOPE IN US ALL **ONCE AGAIN**!

WE ARE WITNESSING A **MIRACLE**, PEOPLE. I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING IT WHILE YOU CAN-- I KNOW I AM-- BECAUSE WE MAY NEVER SEE SOMETHING LIKE HIM AGAIN IN OUR LIFETIMES. HIS PRESENCE HAS GRIPPED, NOT ONLY US HERE IN AMERICA, BUT THE ENTIRE WORLD TOO.

THE WAVE OF "JIM-SANITY" IS WASHING OVER ALL OF US.



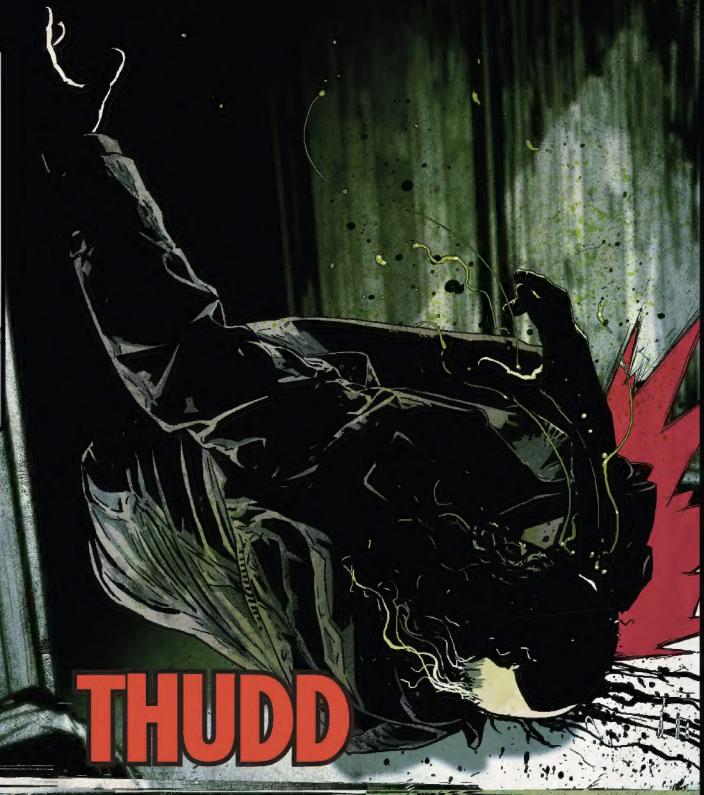
**VIOLENCE** FOLLOWS THIS MAN EVERYWHERE HE GOES. **WHY IS THAT?** IS HE JUST AN **INNOCENT VICTIM**-- A LOST SOUL WITH **INcredible** GIFTS HOUNDED BY THE MEDIA AND IMPOSSIBLE **EXPECTATIONS**? OR... IS HE HIS **OWN WORST ENEMY**? FLAUNTING HIS **GOOD LOOKS**, PLAYING **CAT AND MOUSE** WITH THE **PRESS**-- ONE DAY HE'S TRYING TO AVOID **OUR RIGHTS** AS **JOURNALISTS** TO KNOW AND REPORT **THE TRUTH**, THE NEXT HE'S HOLDING **PRESS CONFERENCES**... **DESERPTELY SEEKING OUR ATTENTION**-- THE **WORLD'S ATTENTION**-- FOR WHATEVER HIS **NEXT GOAL** MAY BE.

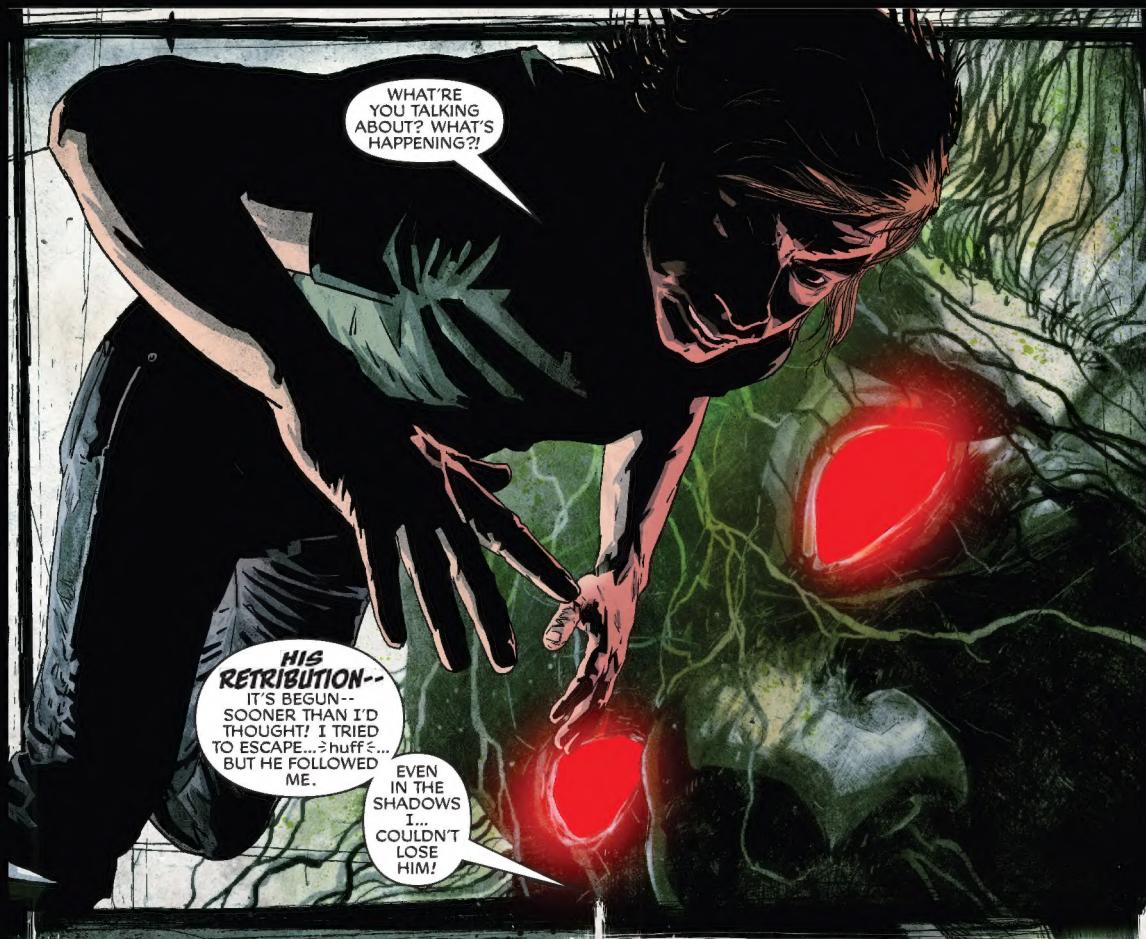
AND TODAY, **WHAT DID WE GET?** **ANOTHER** TELEVISED **MIRACLE?** **ANOTHER** SHOW FOR OUR EYES AND SENSES? **I DOUBT IT!** MR. DOWNING'S "MAGIC" POWERS ARE, IF YOU ASK **ME**, MORE LIKE THE "MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN" FROM **WIZARD OF OZ**-- **ALL HYPE AND NO SUBSTANCE**-- A **DOG AND PONY SHOW** PULLING THE WOOL OVER THE LAME STREAM MEDIA'S EYES WITH **FLASH** AND **SHOCK VALUE**, BUT NOT **MINE**. I'M TELLING YOU **I SEE** THROUGH THIS GUY AND HIS MANIPULATIONS.

**I'M NOT BUYING IT!**



THE REAL STORY  
HERE ISN'T HIS "GOD-LIKE"  
ACTIONS-- TRUST ME ON THIS-- IT'S  
HIS "CHARITABLE" FOUNDATION!  
WHO'S SUPPLYING THE FUNDING FOR  
THAT SHAM? DOWNING DIDN'T START  
IT FOR FREE, SO WHERE'D HE GET  
**THE CASH?** WHO'S PULLING HIS  
**STRINGS?** THAT'S THE **REAL**  
QUESTION.





SADLY,  
DOWNING...

THAT  
ISN'T  
TRUE!

NEXT ISSUE:  
**MY  
MAKER...  
MY  
MASTER!**





EMPIRE